

South Dakota Homeless Consortium Report

The South Dakota Homeless Consortium (SDHC) did a point in time survey of the shelters and providers throughout the state on January 25, 2002. There were a total of 695 individuals and 522 families identified as needing shelter. A street count was not taken at this time, as it was determined that the number of homeless who lived on the street during the coldest month of the year would be negligible. For the SDHC Survey, a Key Contact was established in each of the primary points of contact including: Veteran's, Domestic Abuse, Salvation Army, Dept. of Labor, Mental Health, Health, Youth, and Public Housing Authorities. These Key Contacts were responsible for distributing the survey to all of the agencies within their area of expertise and then collecting them and returning them to SDHDA for compilation. It was determined that the respondents were more likely to reply to a contact they were familiar with than to an unknown agency. Those respondents that provided shelter were asked to identify the number and population served. Those respondents that did not provide shelter, but were aware they were serving unsheltered people on that day, were asked to provide information on those individuals and families. We received over 200 responses this year. This is twice as many as was received last year.

Statewide gaps indicate a great need for transitional housing for families with children; permanent supportive housing for individuals with disabilities, particularly those with severe and persistent mental illness; case management; substance abuse treatment for individuals; job training and housing placement for all sub-populations. The survey also indicates a need for life skills training for both individuals and families.

Definition of Homelessness

Homeless Person: Person residing in a place not meant for human habitation (on the streets, in a car, park, on the sidewalk, in an abandoned building, etc.), OR in an emergency shelter, OR in transitional or supportive housing. A person may also be considered homeless if he/she is residing in any of the places above but is spending a short time (up to 30 days) in a hospital or other institution; OR if he/she is being discharged within a week from an institution in which the person has resided for more than 30 days; OR is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing. The programs covered by the Continuum of Care application are not for populations who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Other Helpful Definitions and Terms

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Services: Inpatient or outpatient treatment that assists the person in overcoming abuse of or addiction to various chemical substances.

Case Management: Organized systemic system of assisting a person or family to achieve the steps necessary to live independently.

Current Inventory: The number of beds or housing units available to serve homeless individuals, or the number of slots available to homeless individuals for supportive services.

Domestic Violence: Persons who have fled housing or might flee housing as a result of emotional or physical abuse at the hands of a spouse, significant other, minor child or parent (if minor child).

Dually Diagnosed: Persons who are diagnosed as having a mental illness and also suffering from chronic substance abuse.

Emergency Shelters: Short-term shelter for persons facing emergencies that have left them homeless. This would include traditional emergency shelters, safe havens and safe houses for victims of domestic violence.

Estimated Need: The number of additional homeless individuals you could assist with shelter or supportive services if you had all the resources to provide those services on any given day.

Housing Placement: Assistance (possibly including information and/or financial) for persons wishing to move into permanent supportive housing or permanent housing.

Individual: Unmarried, single, separated, and divorced persons, without any accompanying family or children.

Job Training/Placement: Assistance aimed at providing a person with marketable skills and assistance to get and keep a job.

Life Skills Training: Training that assists a person to be able to maintain an appropriate lifestyle for him/herself and his/her family.

Mental Health Care: Services for persons who have a psychiatric, behavioral or other mental health issue. Services may be required to properly diagnose an existing, but untreated disorder or to ensure the maintenance of treatment. Deviant behavior resulting solely from an alcohol or substance abuse problem should not be considered a mental health issue.

Permanent Housing: Housing that is not emergency or temporary. It can include rental, ownership or other appropriate forms.

Permanent Supportive Housing: Housing for homeless persons with special needs or situations. Without the permanent supportive housing, the residents would likely be in emergency shelter or on the streets.

Persons in Families with Children: Married couples, married couples with children, and single parents with children.

Slots: Openings for enrollment in services, facilities, etc. For example, if a service program has openings for 10 participants, then it has 10 open slots.

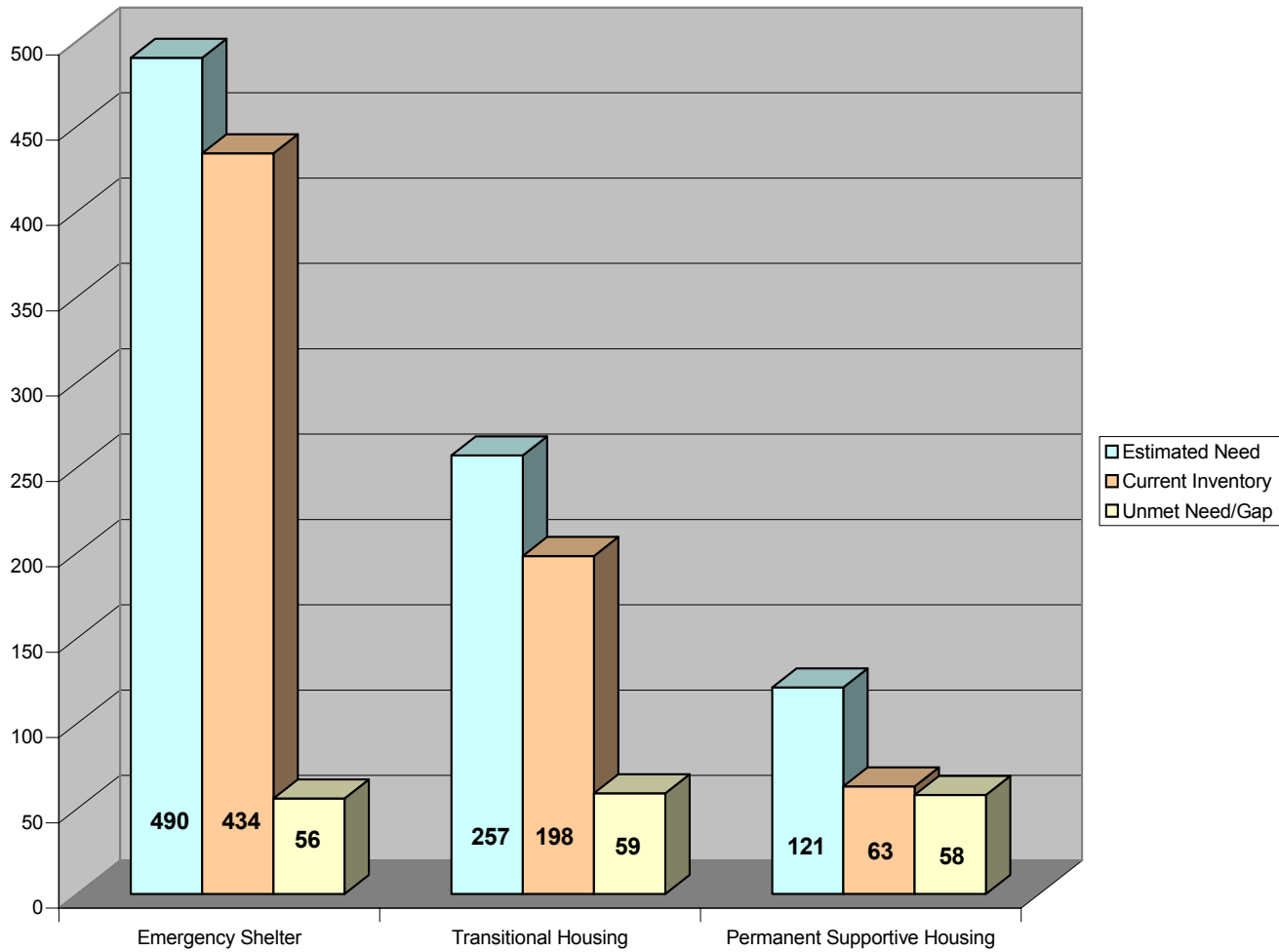
Supportive Services: Assistance aimed at helping homeless persons/families to move toward self-sufficiency. Examples include employment and training services, TANF, Food Stamps, housing assistance and/or other similar services.

Transitional Housing: Bridge for homeless persons between emergency shelter and permanent housing. It consists of low-cost housing accompanied by supportive services. Transitional housing has a maximum length of stay, usually 24 months.

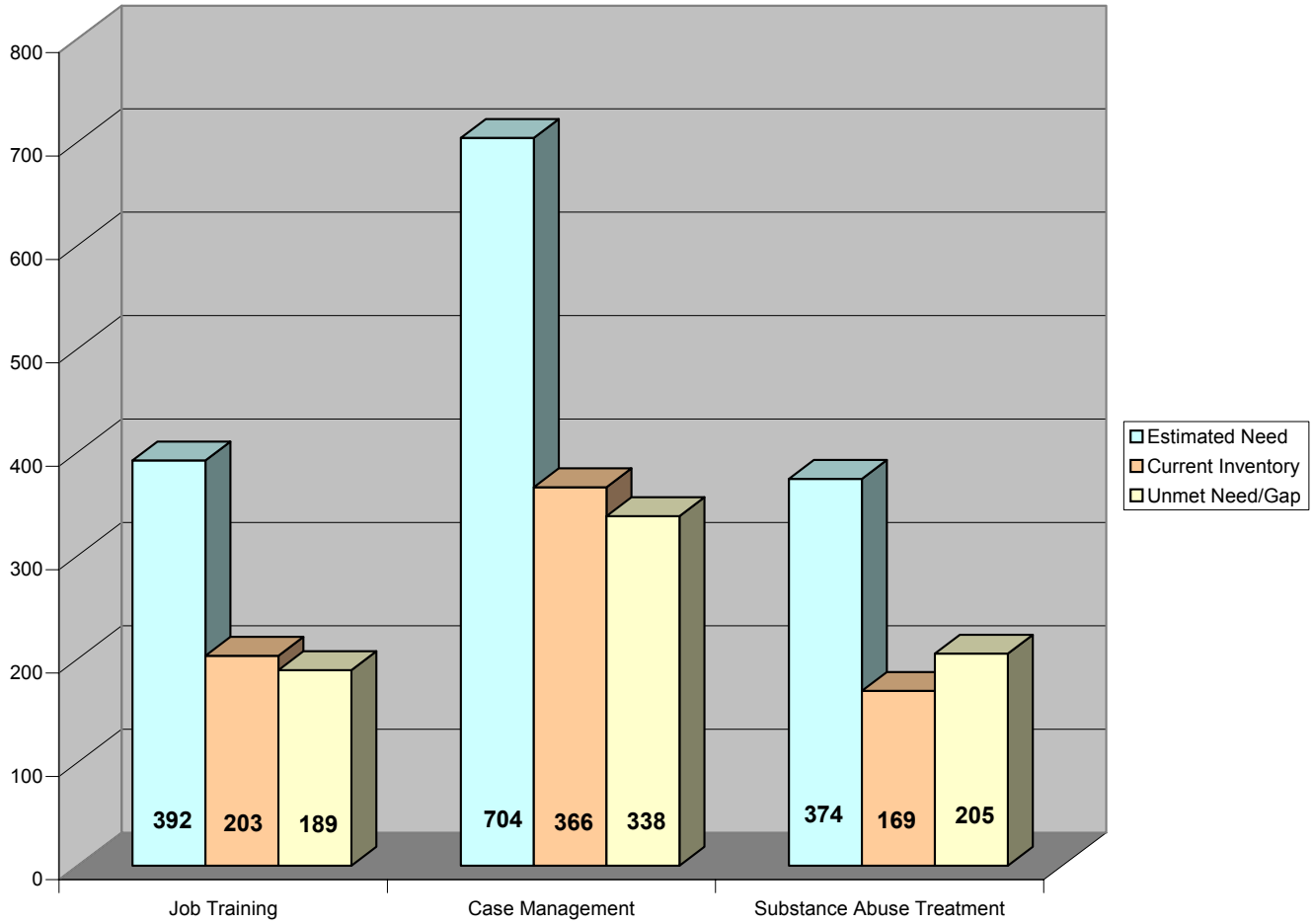
Unmet Need/Gap: The difference between how many slots are available for homeless individuals and what is actually needed.

The following graphs represent the information gathered from the gaps analysis survey.

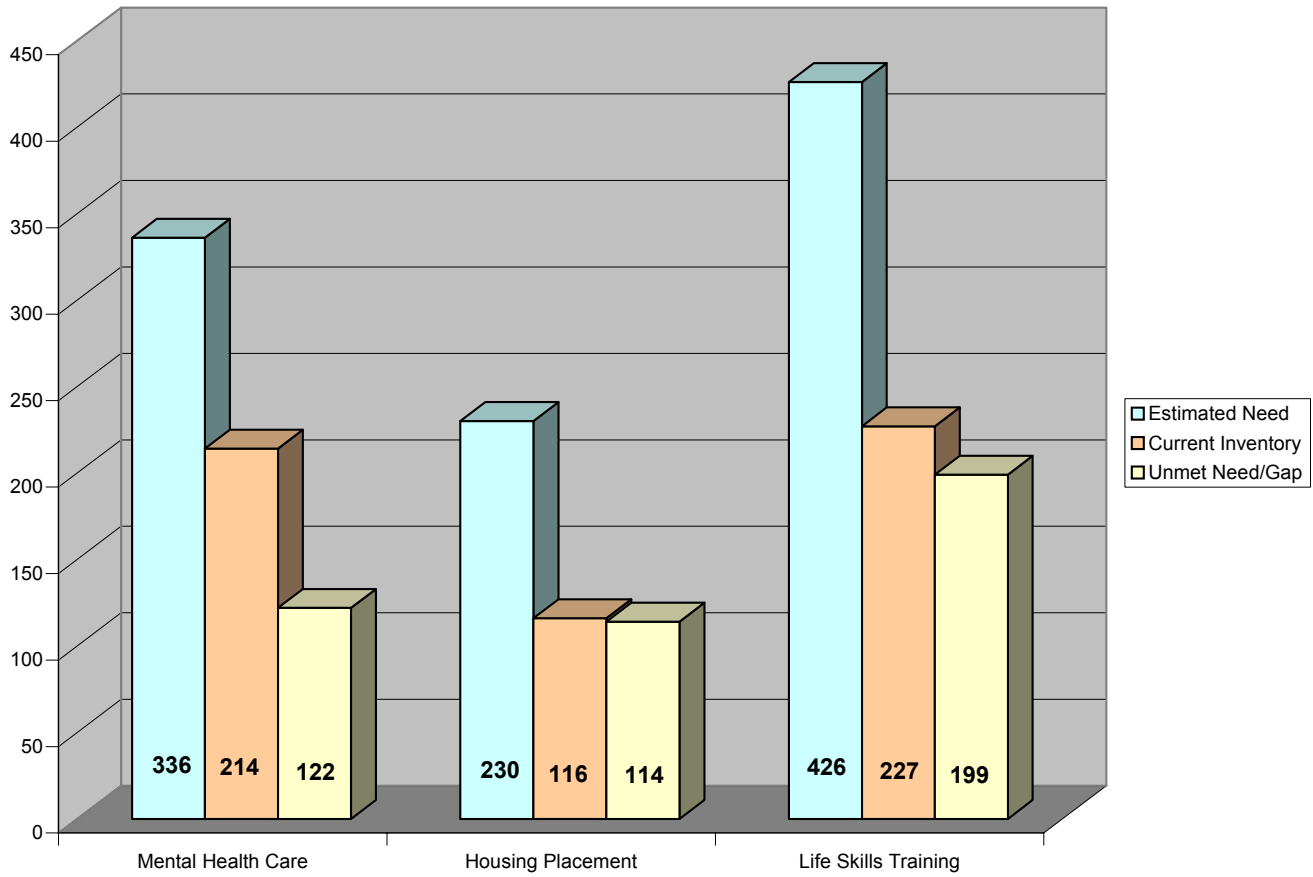
Beds - Individuals



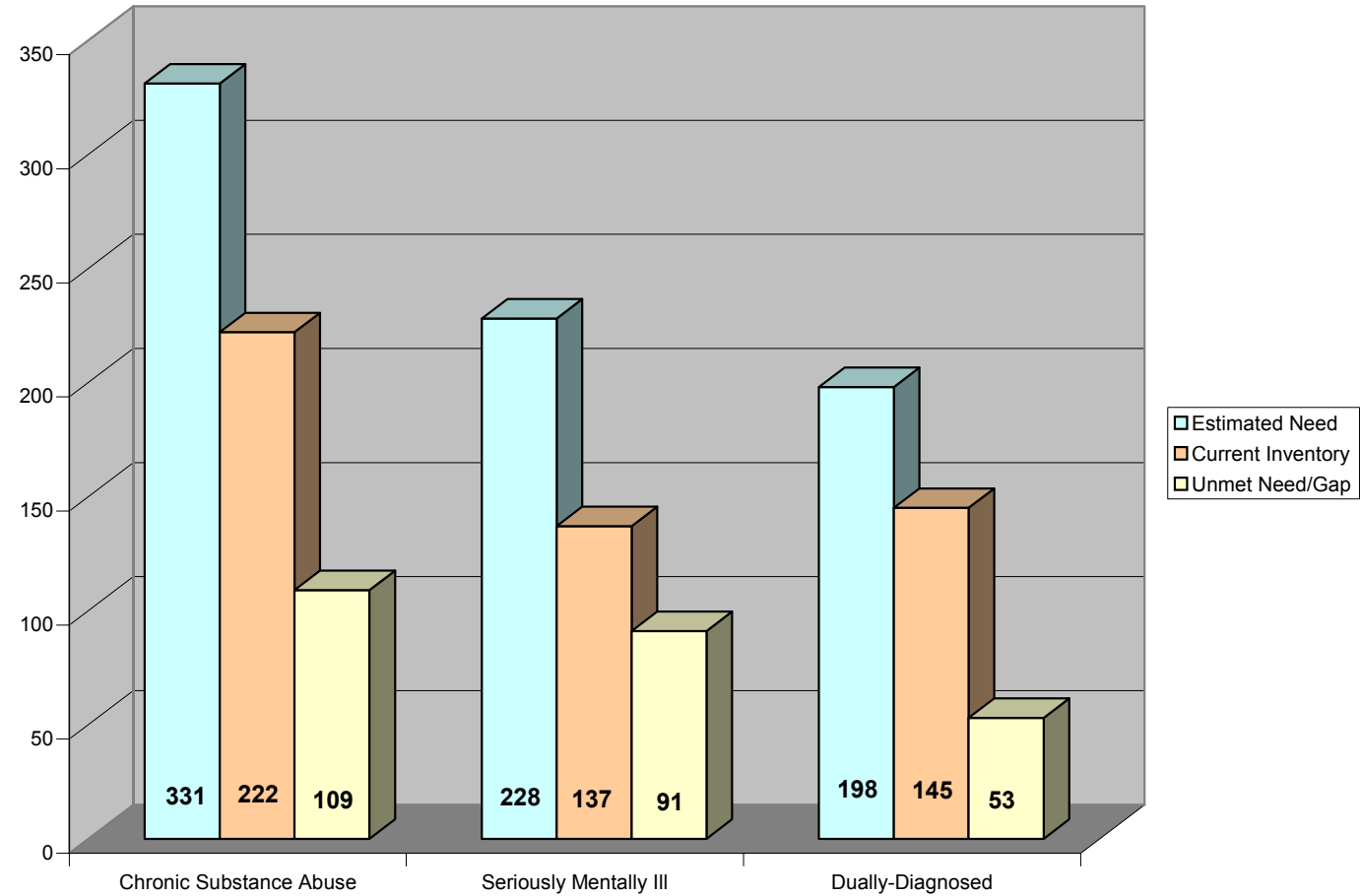
Supportive Services - Individuals



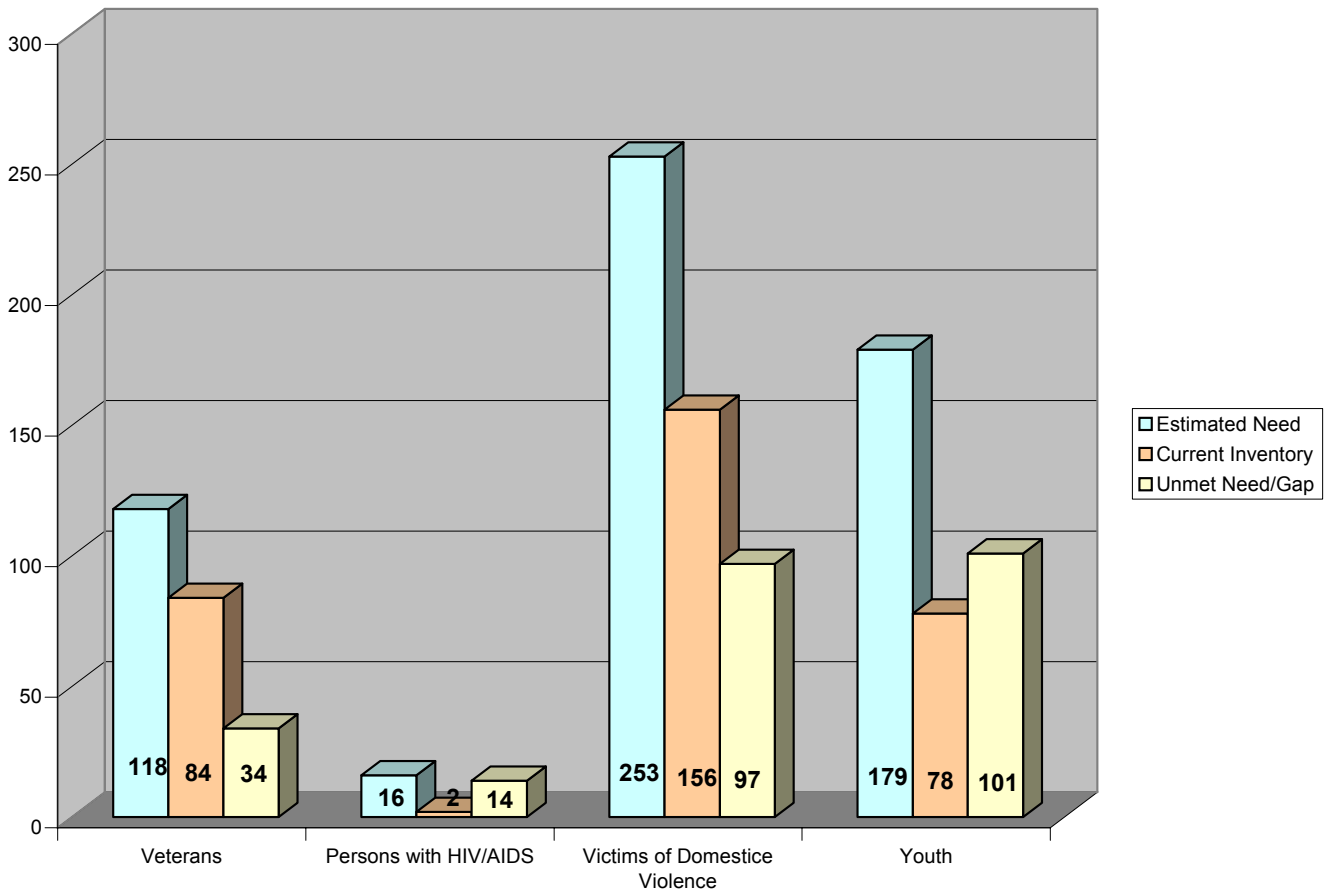
Supportive Services - Individuals



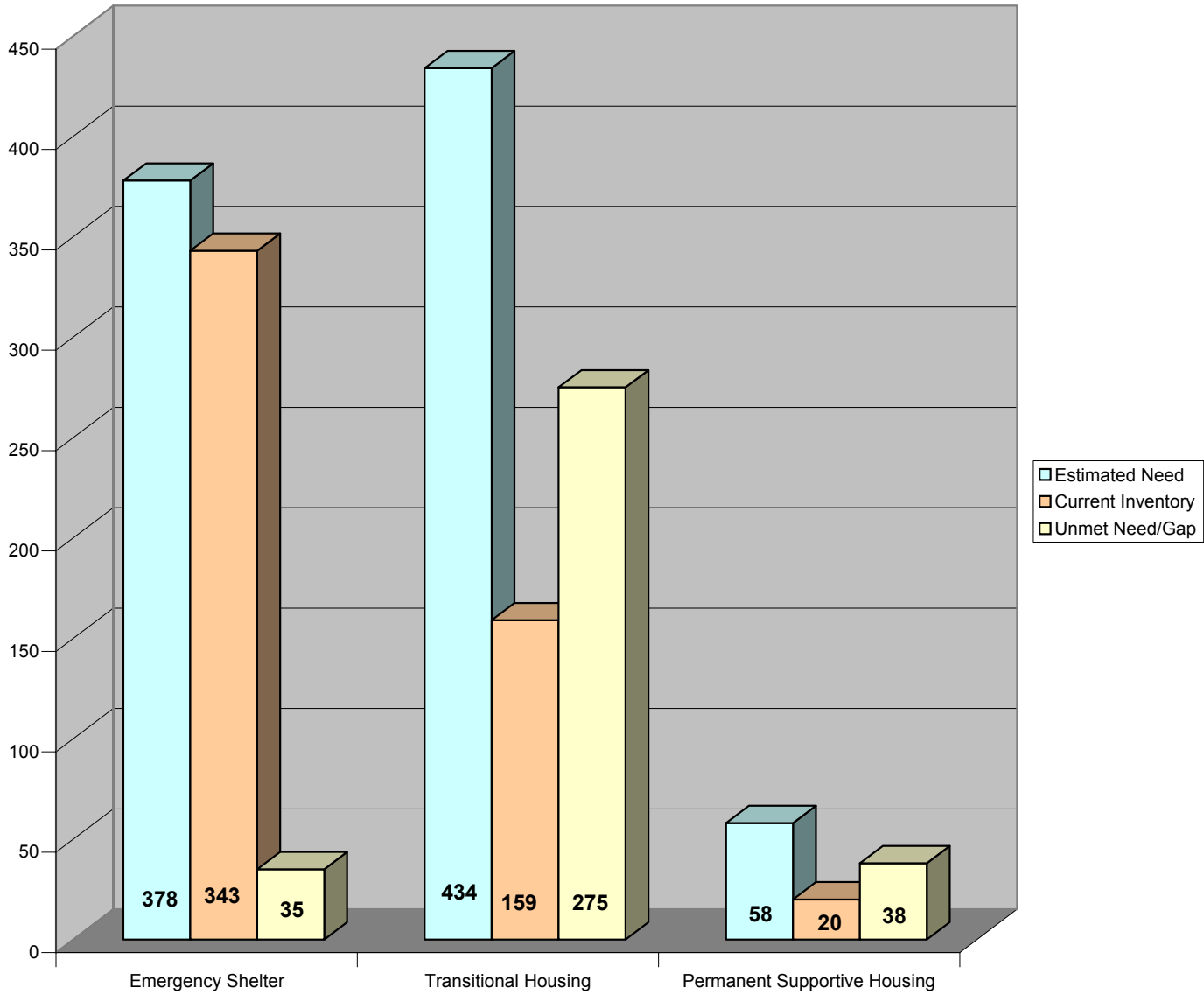
Sub-populations - Individuals



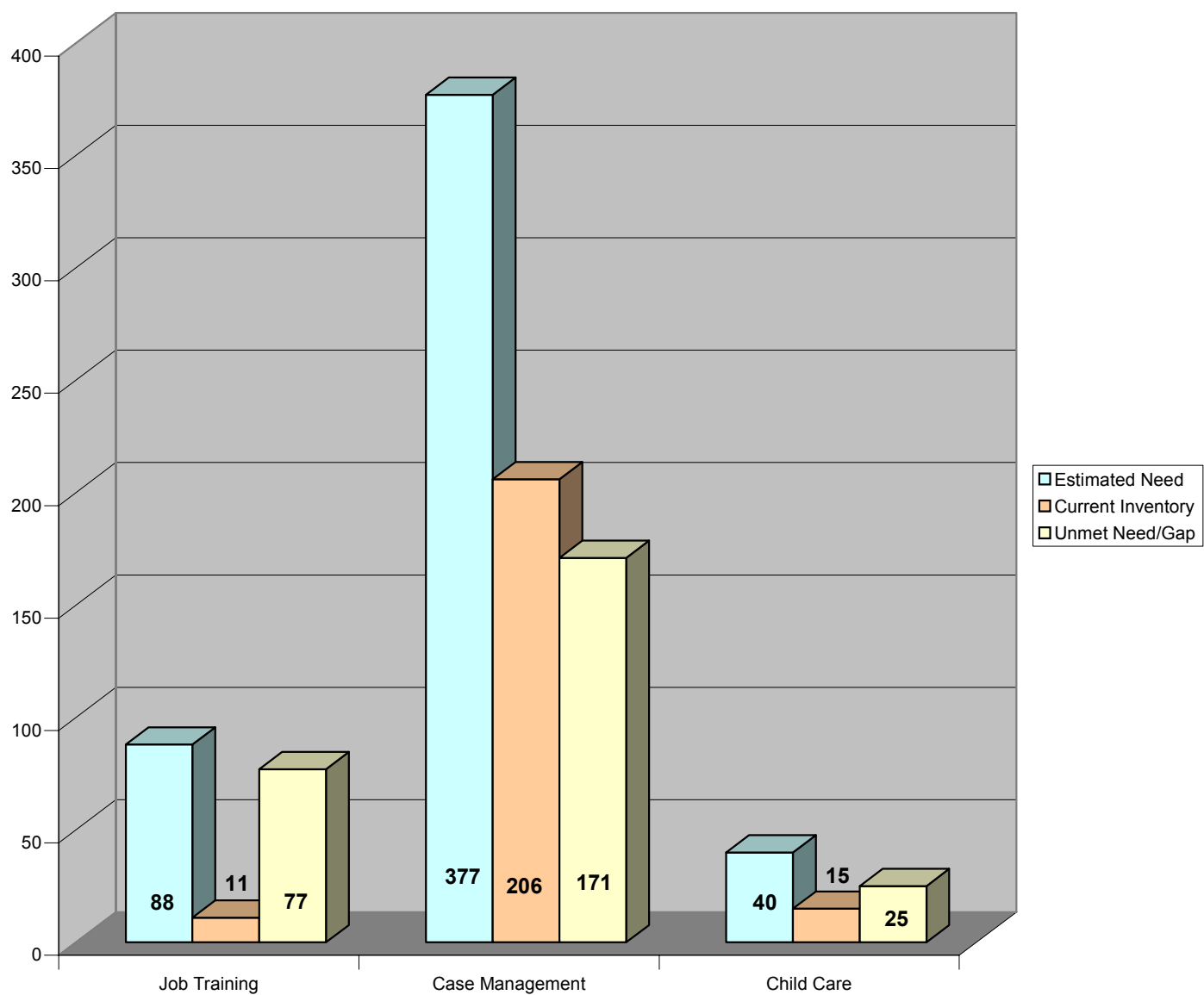
Sub-populations - Individuals



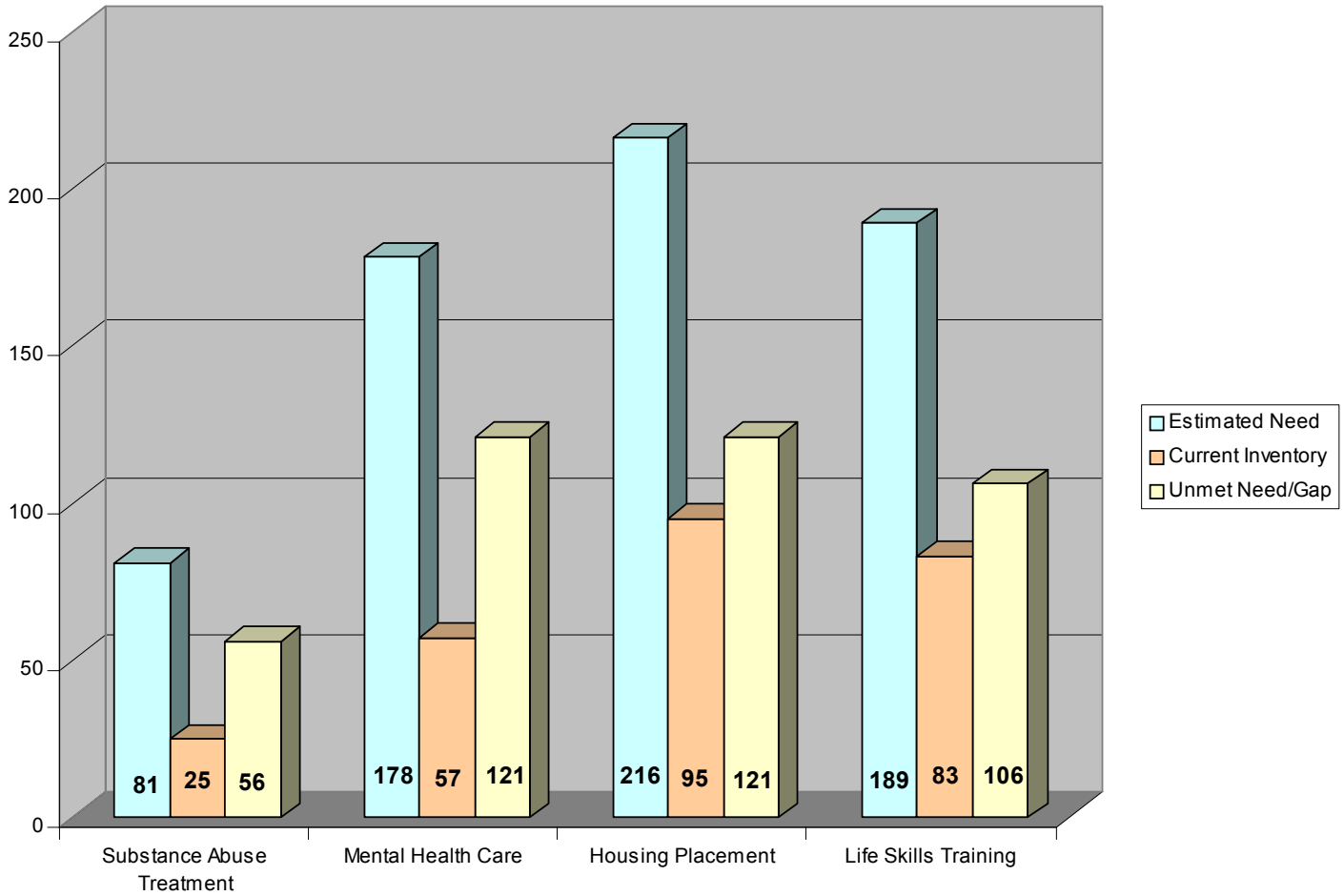
Beds - Families with Children



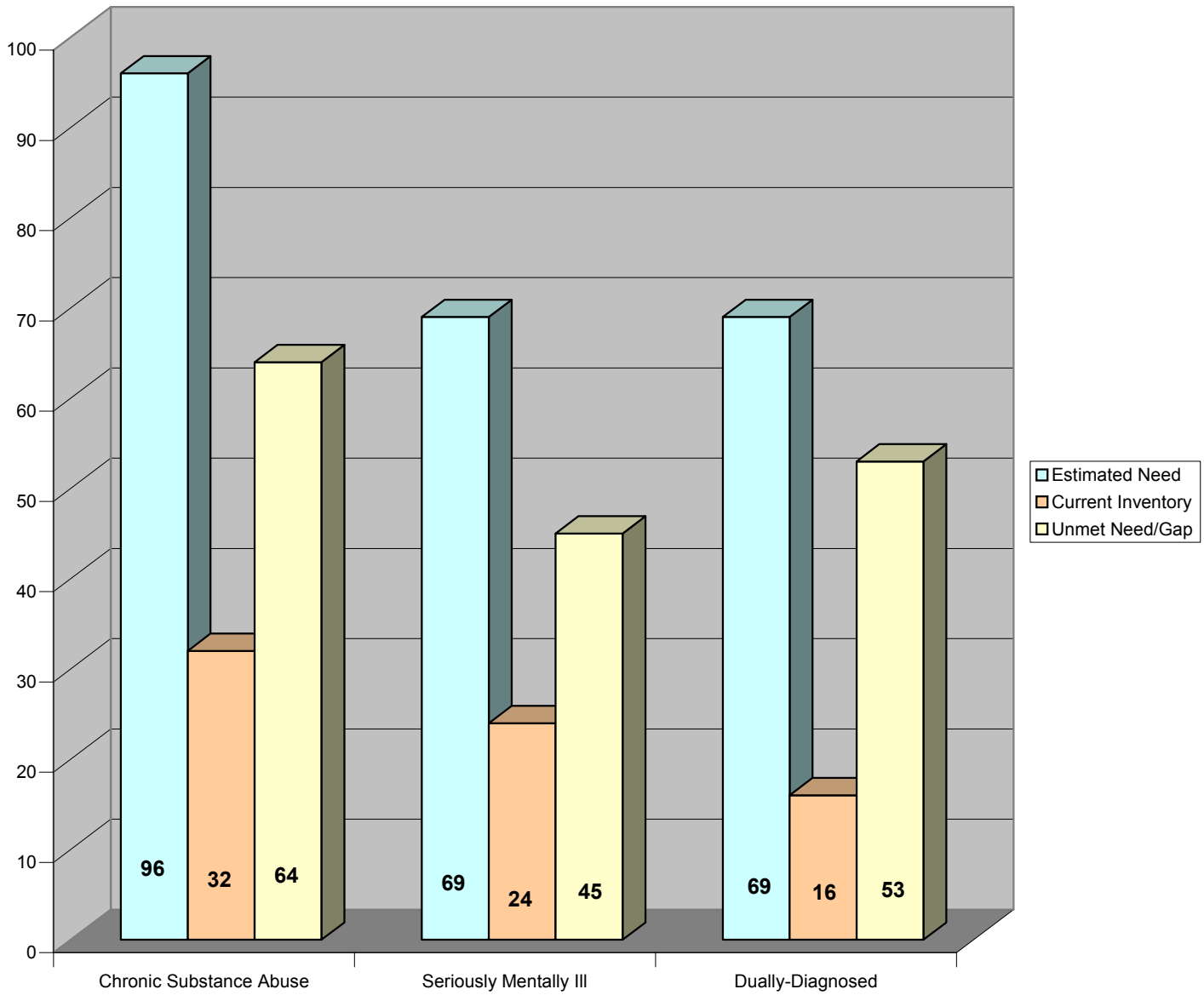
Supportive Services - Families with Children



Supportive Services - Families with Children



Sub-populations - Families with Children



Sub-populations - Families with Children

